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SENATE MEMORIAL 61

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy Z. Jennings

A MEMORIAL

HONORING MARGARET LARRAGOITE'S MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO AND HER SEVENTEEN
YEARS AS CHIEF CLERK OF THE NEW MEXICO SENATE.

WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite has long served the citizens
of the state of New Mexico, having resigned as the chief of
records control in the state bureau of revenue in 1965 to serve
as the manager of the Santa Fe office of United States Senator
Joseph M. Montoya . . . and this after having worked for the
social security administration and the national park service
for thirteen years; and

WHEREAS, although Margaret Larragoite loved her husband,
Philip, and her children, Philip, Melissa and Marcella, her
love of politics always ran a close second, having been active
in Santa Fe party politics, where she served as secretary of

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1 the Santa Fe county democratic party, national committeewoman
2 of the young democrats and former president of the national
3 federation of federal employees; and

4 WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite served as assistant chief
5 clerk of the house of representatives in 1961 and 1962; and

6 WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite was a legacy to state
7 government from the staff of the late Democratic United States
8 Senator Joseph M. Montoya, serving as the director of the
9 social services division of the human services department,
10 where she perfected casework and constituent services for which
11 she was famous when she joined the senate; and

12 WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite was elected chief clerk of
13 the senate in 1991 after serving as the first staffer for the
14 interim senate rules committee; and

15 WHEREAS, she became New Mexico's first full-time senate
16 chief clerk with full-time staff in 1993; and

17 WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite was responsible for a myriad
18 of tasks, both during the legislative session and during the
19 interim, making sure the operations of the senate were smooth
20 and professional and met the expectations of the members and
21 the public; and

22 WHEREAS, Margaret translated her broad experience and
23 knowledge of services to constituents into the development of a
24 first-rate constituent services operation for the New Mexico
25 senate; and

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1 WHEREAS, during her seventeen years as chief clerk, the
2 senators knew they could count on Margaret to manage the
3 senate's affairs with a firm hand and decisive demeanor; and

4 WHEREAS, she remained faithful to the time-honored
5 traditions of the senate and insisted on proper decorum and
6 dignity during all proceedings, but, although she succeeded
7 with her staff, she still had trouble managing the occasional
8 unruly senator; and

9 WHEREAS, just the sound of her voice calling the roll in
10 the morning had enough power to quell the din of numerous
11 conversations and bring stray members and staff into the
12 chamber; and

13 WHEREAS, Margaret Larragoite worked tirelessly to ensure
14 that special occasions in the senate were celebrated with all
15 due pomp and circumstance; and

16 WHEREAS, Margaret has left a lasting impression on the
17 senate and everyone connected to it; and

18 WHEREAS, the senate will not be the same without the
19 annual spectacle of mariachis turning around to serenade her
20 with "Margarita";

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that Margaret Larragoite be honored for her years
23 of dedicated service to the citizens of the state of New Mexico
24 and to the elected officials for whom she so ably served,
25 especially her last seventeen years as chief clerk of the

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1 senate; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate stand to honor
3 Margaret Larragoite and to pay tribute to her for her
4 contributions to the workings of the senate; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to Margaret Larragoite and to her family.

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